

in decades. A perfect election, no; an historic election, yes; and one filled with great promise and potential for the future.

I have also talked today about the threats we face to our future right here at home, through frivolous lawsuits, what we can do to address that. Just today we found out that McDonald's is yet again going to court to defend itself from the claims of a family who ate too much McDonald's food and now wants to blame the restaurant.

We also heard from my colleague today from North Carolina, also talking about the threat of frivolous lawsuits and the threat that we may lose doctors in our most underserved communities.

We also talked about the threat to that most important property right in America, the right to own one's home, posed by a recent IRS ruling.

And finally, not to trivialize it, but finally the threat being faced by those communities who may not have access to Louisiana's fine seafood.

#### CORRECTION TO THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY, JANUARY 20, 2005, AT PAGE H140

#### OMISSION FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF THURSDAY JANUARY 6, 2005, AT PAGE H129

The tellers delivered to the President of the Senate the following statement of results.

#### JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS FOR THE COUNTING OF THE ELECTORAL VOTES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, OFFICIAL TALLY

The undersigned, TRENT LOTT and TIM JOHNSON, tellers on the part of the Senate, ROBERT W. NEY and JOHN B. LARSON of Connecticut, tellers on the part of the House of Representatives, report the following as the result of the ascertainment and counting of the electoral vote for President and Vice President of the United States for the term beginning on the Twentieth day of January, two thousand and five.

Electoral votes of each State	For President			For Vice President	
	George W. Bush	John F. Kerry	John Edwards	Dick Cheney	John Edwards
Alabama—9 .....	9			9	
Alaska—3 .....	3			3	
Arizona—10 .....	10			10	
Arkansas—6 .....	6			6	
California—55 .....		55			55
Colorado—9 .....	9			9	
Connecticut—7 .....		7			7
Delaware—3 .....		3			3
District of Columbia—3 .....		3			3
Florida—27 .....	27			27	
Georgia—15 .....	15			15	
Hawaii—4 .....		4			4
Idaho—4 .....	4			4	
Illinois—21 .....		21			21
Indiana—11 .....	11			11	
Iowa—7 .....	7			7	
Kansas—6 .....	6			6	
Kentucky—8 .....	8			8	
Louisiana—9 .....	9			9	
Maine—4 .....		4			4
Maryland—10 .....		10			10
Massachusetts—12 .....		12			12
Michigan—17 .....		17			17
Minnesota—10 .....		9	1		10
Mississippi—6 .....	6			6	
Missouri—11 .....	11			11	

Electoral votes of each State	For President			For Vice President	
	George W. Bush	John F. Kerry	John Edwards	Dick Cheney	John Edwards
Montana—3 .....	3			3	
Nebraska—5 .....	5			5	
Nevada—5 .....	5			5	
New Hampshire—4 .....		4			4
New Jersey—15 .....		15			15
New Mexico—5 .....	5			5	
New York—31 .....		31			31
North Carolina—15 .....	15			15	
North Dakota—3 .....	3			3	
Ohio—20 .....	20			20	
Oklahoma—7 .....	7			7	
Oregon—7 .....		7			7
Pennsylvania—21 .....		21			21
Rhode Island—4 .....		4			4
South Carolina—8 .....	8			8	
South Dakota—3 .....	3			3	
Tennessee—11 .....	11			11	
Texas—34 .....	34			34	
Utah—5 .....	5			5	
Vermont—3 .....		3			3
Virginia—13 .....	13			13	
Washington—11 .....		11			11
West Virginia—5 .....	5			5	
Wisconsin—10 .....		10			10
Wyoming—3 .....	3			3	
Total—538 ..	286	251	1	286	252

TRENT LOTT,

TIM JOHNSON,

*Tellers on the part of the Senate.*

ROBERT W. NEY,

JOHN B. LARSON,

*Tellers on the part of the House of Representatives.*

The state of the vote for President of the United States, as delivered to the President of the Senate, is as follows:

The whole number of the electors appointed to vote for President of the United States is 538, of which a majority is 270.

George W. Bush, of the State of Texas, has received for President of the United States 286 votes;

JOHN F. KERRY, of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, has received 251 votes;

JOHN EDWARDS, of the State of North Carolina, has received 1 vote.

The state of the vote for Vice President of the United States, as delivered to the President of the Senate, is as follows:

The whole number of the electors appointed to vote for Vice President of the United States is 538, of which a majority is 270.

DICK CHENEY, of the State of Wyoming, has received for Vice President of the United States 286 votes;

JOHN EDWARDS, of the State of North Carolina, has received 252 votes;

This announcement of the state of the vote by the President of the Senate shall be deemed a sufficient declaration of the persons elected President and Vice President of the United States, each for the term beginning on the twentieth day of January, two thousand and five and shall be entered, together with the list of the votes, on the Journals of the Senate and House of Representatives.

Note: The certificate from the State of Minnesota reflected that one electoral cast ballots for JOHN EDWARDS, of the State of North Carolina, for both President and Vice President.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BERKLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and January 26 on account of official business—congressional delegation to Poland.

Ms. ESHOO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for January 6.

Mr. ISRAEL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and January 26 on account of official business.

Mr. LANTOS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and January 26 on account of official business.

Mrs. BONO (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and January 26 on account of a family emergency.

Mr. EHLERS (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. FOLEY (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

Mr. MCCOTTER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of his leading a congressional delegation to the 60th anniversary of liberation of Auschwitz.

Mr. ROHRBACHER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. WAMP (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of family reasons.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUELLAR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BLUMENAUER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GOHMERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RAMSTAD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MURPHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, January 26.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NUSSLE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)